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CLASSIFICATION ~~SECRET~~COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT

TOPIC Finsterwalde Airfield

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EVALUATION PLACE OBTAINED

637955

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DATE OF CONTENT DATE OBTAINED DATE PREPARED 27 July 1954

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REFERENCES PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

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REMARKS

This is UNEVALUATED Information

1. The following aircraft and air activity were observed at Finsterwalde airfield between 16 and 27 June 1954:

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16 to 18 June. Throughout the day, there was air activity by 3 MiG-15s and U-MiG-15s which circled over the field for 6 to 8 minutes.

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19 to 24 June. No air activity was observed at the field.

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25 June. MiG-15s circled widely over the field for 15 to 20 minutes. Landings were made by a biplane at 1015 and a high-wing monoplane at 1635, the latter of which again took off about 1645 heading north.

26 June. There was air activity by 3 MiG-15s which also made low-level attacks at the field about noon.

28 June to 1 July. As on the preceding days, local flights were made by 4 MiG-15s which occasionally made steep turns at an altitude of about 1,000 meters. All the flights in the vicinity of the field were made with extended landing gear.

27 June. About 2100, 8 MiG-15s and U-MiG-15s were parked at the edge of the runway. A total of 12 to 15 MiG-15s and U-MiG-15s were stationed at Finsterwalde airfield.

2. Between 1400 and 1630 on 18 June, elements of two MiG-15s practiced firing at the auxiliary airfield near Gahro. The aircraft made about 10 approaches and then headed south. About 2235 on 23 June, 11 railroad tank cars moved to Finsterwalde airfield.

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3. The following air activity and aircraft were observed at the field on 30 June and 1 July:

30 June. From the road south of Schackendorf, 12 MIG-15s and 12 MIG-17s were counted at the field. The hangars were closed. At 0800, 10 aircraft taxied at irregular intervals to the take-off point at the western edge of the field and took off individually at intervals of 1 minute. Some aircraft with extended landing gears made local flights of 3 or 4 minutes duration at altitudes of 300 to 400 meters. Other aircraft assembled in formations of 2 or 3 at an altitude of about 400 meters and mostly disappeared from view heading north. After 15 to 20 minutes, the formations returned to the field, dispersed while flying a large left bank, and then landed individually at intervals of about 1,000 meters. The individual aircraft of the formations flew at a distance and maintained an interval of about 2 wingspans. The two aircraft of the individual elements alternately took the lead.

1 July. Between 0900 and 1700, there was the same air activity by 8 MIG-15s and 12 MIG-17s as on 30 June.

4. No radio installations were observed at the field or in its vicinity. Truck [] proceeded toward the airfield.

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[] Comment. The pilots of the ground attack division in Alt Loennewitz are re-training on MIG-15s at Finsterwalde airfield as well as at Alt Loennewitz airfield. The description of air activity observed definitely shows that progress was being made. []

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The former German auxiliary airfield at Dabern-Galro is located north of Finsterwalde.

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